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## National

### **1 Opinion: Critics wailed that Obama's EPA was out of control. But look at Trump's, Washington Post, 9/28/19**

[https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/critics-wailed-that-obamas-epa-was-out-of-control-but-look-at-trumps/2019/09/28/996b61be-e14a-11e9-b199-f638bf2c340f\\_story.html](https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/critics-wailed-that-obamas-epa-was-out-of-control-but-look-at-trumps/2019/09/28/996b61be-e14a-11e9-b199-f638bf2c340f_story.html)

In a brazen abuse of federal power, President Trump's EPA this week declared regulatory war on California. On Tuesday, Administrator Andrew Wheeler sent a letter to the state accusing it of failing to meet federal air-quality standards and threatening to withhold billions in federal highway funding from the state.

### **2 - States Demand Wheeler Explain EPA's Stance on Federalism, Bloomberg News, 9/27/19**

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/states-demand-wheeler-explain-epas-stance-on-federalism>

State regulators have taken the unusual step of requesting a meeting with EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler to talk about what they see as an eroding relationship between federal and state agencies. In a Sept. 26 letter to Wheeler, the Environmental Council of the States said recent communications and actions by the Environmental Protection Agency are "damaging" the long-standing relationship between the EPA and states, and "eroding our ability to jointly protect our citizens and the environment."

### **3 - 'Forever Chemicals' Coming to Your Table, if Not Already There, Bloomberg News, 9/27/19**

<https://news.bloombergenvironment.com/environment-and-energy/forever-chemicals-coming-to-your-table-if-not-already-there>

Third-generation dairy farmer Fred Stone lost his cows, his livelihood, and his plans for retirement after opening a letter on Nov. 3, 2016. The letter, from his local water district, said a well providing his drinking water was contaminated—at twice the EPA's health advisory limit—with some chemicals he'd never heard of and couldn't pronounce. Later tests showed his cows' milk was contaminated too, with as much as 20 times the advisory limit. Stone had to stop selling his milk, and hasn't sold any since.

### **4 - Fall environmental docket: 'Calm before the storm', E&E News, 9/27/19**

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2019/09/27/stories/1061175007>

As disputes over key Trump administration environmental actions crescendo in the lower courts, the nation's highest bench is filling out its calendar with a small set of cases that could have major impacts on water permitting, Superfund cleanups and tribal lands. The two marquee environmental items on the Supreme Court justices' to-do list this term involve examinations of the role of groundwater in Clean Water Act permitting and the limits of cleanup accountability under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, also known as Superfund.

### **5 – The EPA fired these air pollution scientists. They're meeting anyway, Grist, 9/28/19**

<https://grist.org/article/the-epa-fired-these-air-pollution-scientists-theyre-meeting-anyway/>

An advisory panel of air pollution scientists disbanded by the Trump administration plans to continue their work with or without the U.S. government. The researchers — from a group that reviewed the latest studies

about how tiny particles of air pollution from fossil fuels make people sick — will assemble next month, a year from the day they were fired.

#### **6 – America Is Deeply Split On The EPA-versus-California Fight, Forbes, 9/30/19**

<https://www.forbes.com/sites/davidundercoffler/2019/09/30/america-split-on-epa-vs-california-fight/#5bd764fe5e40>

No topic is immune from politics in this hyperpartisan climate, and now it's seeped into attitudes about the current EPA-versus-California battle, according to a new poll. First, a quick refresher. Earlier this month, President Trump made good on a long-standing threat to formally revoke a waiver that's been granted to California for decades; the waiver lets the state set its own emissions standards for vehicles.

#### **7 - EPA considering first fish farm in Gulf of Mexico, Tampa Bay Times, 9/26/19**

<https://www.tampabay.com/news/environment/2019/09/26/epa-considering-first-fish-farm-in-gulf-of-mexico/>

A Hawaii-based company wants to open the first offshore fish farm in the Gulf of Mexico about 45 miles west of Sarasota. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, which approved a draft permit in August, is seeking public comment on issuing a final permit on the project through Sunday. Fishing and environmental groups have already raised objections to the proposal by Kampachi Farms to anchor a chain-link mesh pen offshore to raise 20,000 Almaco jack fish — a relative of the popular amberjack — for human consumption. The company plans to hatch the fish from eggs in tanks on shore, then when they become fingerlings move them to the open ocean pen.

### Texas

#### **8 – For The Permian Basin, Getting Energy To Market Is The Difference Between Boom And Bust, Texas Standard, 9/27/19**

<https://www.texasstandard.org/stories/for-the-permian-basin-getting-energy-to-market-is-the-difference-between-boom-and-bust/>

There are few factors more influential on the Texas economy, and even on the way government works, than the price of a barrel of oil. A change of a few dollars either way in the price of West Texas Intermediate Crude has a massive effect on the state's financial health. Thanks to historic production in the Permian Basin, the flow of oil has been strong, and production is at near record levels. But how long will the oil boom last, and at what cost?

#### **9 – EPA approves Texas' clean air plan for ozone, Orange Leader, 9/28/19**

<https://www.orangeleader.com/2019/09/28/epa-approves-texas-clean-air-plan-for-ozone/>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently approved the state of Texas' plan for administering programs related to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone. Texas' state implementation plan (SIP) demonstrates that it meets the Clean Air Act infrastructure requirements for the 2015 ozone NAAQS.

#### **10 - Is it time to crack down on ethylene oxide emissions?, C&E, 9/28/19**

<https://cen.acs.org/environment/pollution/time-crack-down-ethylene-oxide/97/i38>

Ethylene oxide is a basic chemical building block for a slew of modern products, including plastics and medicines. This seven-atom molecule is the simplest epoxide. But not much is simple in the debate over how much of this flammable gas—which is carcinogenic when inhaled—is safe for the public to breathe. The issue is coming to a head now because the US Environmental Protection Agency is under a court-imposed deadline to revise, by early next year, regulations on hazardous air pollution for plants that manufacture ethylene oxide.

#### **11 - EPA estimates of risk from ethylene oxide greatly overblown, Texas environmental regulators say, Dupage Policy Journal, 9/27/19**

<https://dupagepolicyjournal.com/stories/514012006-epa-estimates-of-risk-from-ethylene-oxide-greatly-overblown-texas-environmental-regulators-say>

Texas officials have a much different take on the latent dangers of a chemical compound, ethylene oxide (EO), at the center of Willowbrook's Sterigenics dispute. Texas environmental regulators have proposed regulations loosening restrictions of the emission of the gas, while some Illinois lawmakers have said they won't be satisfied until the Sterigenics plant is permanently shut down. The plant uses EO to sterilize medical equipment.

## **12 – OPINION: Is that road made of recycled asphalt? If it's done right, you will never know, Dallas News, 9/29/19**

<https://www.dallasnews.com/opinion/commentary/2019/09/29/is-that-road-made-of-recycled-asphalt-if-it-s-done-right-you-will-never-know/>

Ask just about anybody to name the most recycled material in America, and you're likely to get some predictable responses: Aluminum cans. Plastic bottles. Glass bottles. Paper. Each guess is logical. And each one is wrong.

## **13 - Texas LNG to face three opponents in contested case hearing, H-Chron, 9/27/19**

<https://www.chron.com/business/energy/article/Texas-LNG-to-face-three-opponents-in-contested-14471863.php?cmpid=ffcp>

Houston liquefied natural gas company Texas LNG will face three opponents in an upcoming hearing to obtain a state air pollution permit and build an export terminal at the Port of Brownsville. The State Office of Administrative Hearings held a preliminary hearing for the case in downtown Brownsville on Thursday morning.

## Louisiana

### **14 - EPA gives LSU award, Business Report, 9/27/19**

<https://www.businessreport.com/newsletters/roundup-epa-gives-lsu-award-no-call-lawsuit-us-spending-inches-up-0-1#close-olyticsmodal>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Gulf of Mexico Division has announced LSU's college of the coast and environment as a second-place winner of the "Gulf Guardian" award for its EnvironMentors program. Environ Mentors encourages interest in environmental stewardship and science careers among high school participants.

## **15 Environmental group sues over exemptions to safety rule put in place after Deepwater Horizon, Times Picayune, 9/28/19**

[https://www.nola.com/news/environment/article\\_0a8f2f64-e070-11e9-9795-2f80e45ffc1d.html](https://www.nola.com/news/environment/article_0a8f2f64-e070-11e9-9795-2f80e45ffc1d.html)

The nonprofit group Healthy Gulf filed a lawsuit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia on Thursday against two federal agencies and their directors for allowing offshore drillers to waive safety protocols put in place after the Deepwater Horizon catastrophe. An investigation into the explosion that killed 11 people in 2010 determined that among the factors leading to the disaster was the failure of a piece of equipment called a blowout preventer, the last line of defense against an oil spill.

## Arkansas

### **16 EPA approves Ark. haze plan, rolling back Obama standards, Greenwire, 9/27/19**

<https://www.eenews.net/greenwire/2019/09/27/stories/1061175209>

EPA has given final approval to an Arkansas regional haze reduction plan that rolls back Obama-era requirements for sulfur dioxide scrubbers on two high-polluting power plants. "States are best suited to run their clean-air programs, and Arkansas' clean air plan gives our state partner the flexibility needed to improve

its air quality," EPA Region 6 Administrator Ken McQueen said in a statement announcing the decision. "This plan ensures that the skies over Arkansas' scenic areas will be protected for future generations."

**17 \$2.3M fine set for Arkansas oil spill in '13, Ark. Democrat Gazette, 9/29/19**

<https://www.arkansasonline.com/news/2019/sep/29/2-3m-fine-set-for-oil-spill-in-13-20190/>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Arkansas Department of Energy and Environment have entered into a proposed consent decree with Delek Logistics, which also operates as Lion Oil Co. The company spilled 5,890 barrels, or 247,380 gallons, of oil from its Magnolia facility in March 2013. It went largely unnoticed by the public at the time because of the spill's location in an undeveloped part of Columbia County. The 13-hour spill stretched from the facility into a ditch, which eventually drained into Little Cornie Bayou and Lake D'Arbonne. The lake flows into the Ouachita River.

## Oklahoma

**18 Results are in on third party water test, Claremore Daily Progress, 9/30/19**

[https://www.claremoreprogress.com/news/results-are-in-on-third-party-water-test/article\\_f6976538-e2ce-11e9-84a8-c34d5e69761b.html](https://www.claremoreprogress.com/news/results-are-in-on-third-party-water-test/article_f6976538-e2ce-11e9-84a8-c34d5e69761b.html)

Third party test results of Claremore drinking water show a mixed bag. This month, copper and lead were found to be within safe-to-consume levels based on Environmental Protection Agency standards. However, in August, tests conducted at Will Rogers Junior High and Claremore High School found byproducts of disinfectants above the maximum contaminant level.

**19 Mystery persists, but EPA, oil producers settle on plan for North Bird Creek water quality, Tulsa World, 9/28/19**

[https://www.tulsaworld.com/news/state-and-regional/mystery-persists-but-epa-oil-producers-settle-on-plan-for/article\\_0967b492-08fd-59e8-9db8-988a04d230f6.html](https://www.tulsaworld.com/news/state-and-regional/mystery-persists-but-epa-oil-producers-settle-on-plan-for/article_0967b492-08fd-59e8-9db8-988a04d230f6.html)

Three years ago, the water in North Bird Creek developed a sheen, turned three times as salty as the ocean and appeared to be inundated with oil well production water. Today, the stream is back to normal and the Environmental Protection Agency and two Osage County oil producers have finally settled on a solution that "should prevent it ever happening again."

## New Mexico

**20 State Legislators Ask Federal Court For Leave To File 'Friends Of The Court' Brief, Los Alamos Daily Post, 9/28/19**

<https://www.ladailypost.com/content/state-legislators-ask-federal-court-leave-file-%E2%80%99friends-court%E2%80%99-brief>

Three State Legislators, Sen. Mimi Stewart, Sen. Antoinette Sedillo Lopez and Rep. Andrés Romero have asked the United States District Court for permission to file an Amici Curiae – "Friends of the Court" – Brief in a lawsuit involving toxic pollutants from two Air Force bases. The Brief would support the legal action by the New Mexico Attorney General and the New Mexico Environment Department to compel the United States Air Force to conduct prompt investigation and cleanup of toxic pollutants at Cannon Air Force Base near Clovis, New Mexico, and Holloman Air Force Base near Alamogordo, New Mexico.

**21 Carlsbad working with The State of New Mexico to solve air pollution problem, Carlsbad Current Argus, 9/27/19**

<https://www.currentargus.com/story/news/local/2019/09/27/carlsbad-new-mexico-solve-air-pollution-problem/3789194002/>

Carlsbad is closer to violating federal air pollution standards than almost any other community in New Mexico. The National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS), enforced by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency specifies the standard at 70 parts per billion (ppb). Carlsbad's was reported to contain 74 ppb of ozone, along with Desert View and Santa Teresa in Doña Ana County.

**22 Udall Secures Strong Investments For New Mexico In Major Interior & Environment Funding Bill, Los Alamos, 9/28/19**

<https://ladailypost.com/content/udall-secures-strong-investments-new-mexico-major-interior-environment-funding-bill>

U.S. Sen. Tom Udall (D-N.M), lead Democrat on the Appropriations Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies, advanced major funding Thursday for New Mexico's public lands, infrastructure, environmental protection and stewardship, and programs for Indian Country as part of the Fiscal Year 2020 Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill. The bill passed the committee and will now head to the full Senate.

### **23 Tales Of Our Times: Know-How In Waste Handling Attained Sudden Importance, Los Alamos**

<https://www.ladailypost.com/content/tales-our-times-know-how-waste-handling-attained-sudden-importance>

New Mexico Citizens for Clean Air & Water has lobbied to have the Manhattan Project National Historical Park include environmental history. This task began before the park existed. History will always be debated. If history is kept in accurate context and a breadth of aspects, the debate may be one of substance. If history fades out, the debate will be "sound and fury." Keeping history strong and healthy is the aim of the National Park Service (NPS).